THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) After due evaluation, spread over several years of various trainer aircraft, available in the world market, M/s British Aerospace was shortlisted for purchase of Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer. Negotiations have not yet been concluded. Certain airframe designs, especially of the trainer aircraft variety, do not get outdated for considerable periods, besides lending themselves to periodic upgrades for retaining effectiveness.

Review of Defence deals

3676. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minsiter of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Defence deals to be reviewed" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated 30th March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the recent Tehelka exposer has forces Government to re-examine the signing of several defence deals and has affected the modernisation system; and

(c) if so, the details of the defence projects which have been affected due to Tehelka exposer and the steps taken by Government to ensure timely modernisation of defence projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration for re-examination of any of the defence acquisitions. Modernisation of defence is a continuous process and any review of defence projects, would only be undertaken without seriously affecting the defence preparedness of the country.